

# Dissonant Voices

## Teaching Untaught Histories

Golden Gate  
National Recreation Area



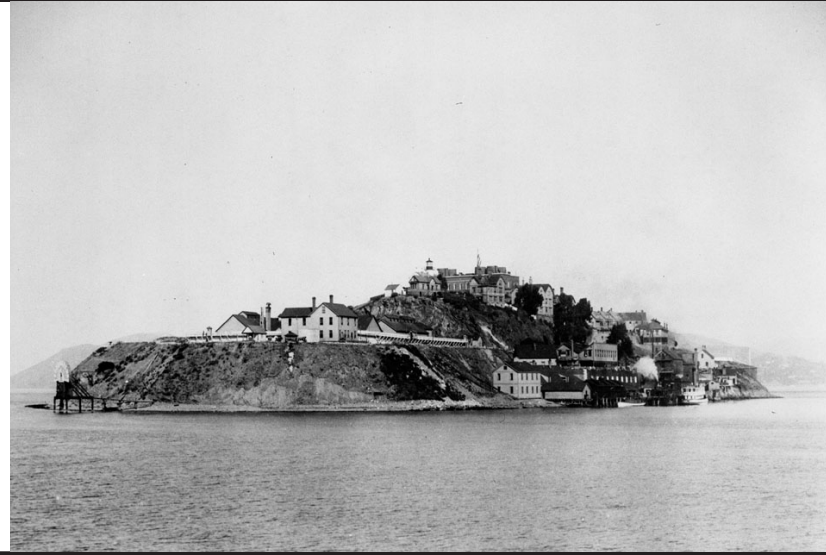
### *Political Prisoners on Alcatraz*

September 16, 2017

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Alcatraz Island

Workshop for Secondary Educators



FREE Workshop

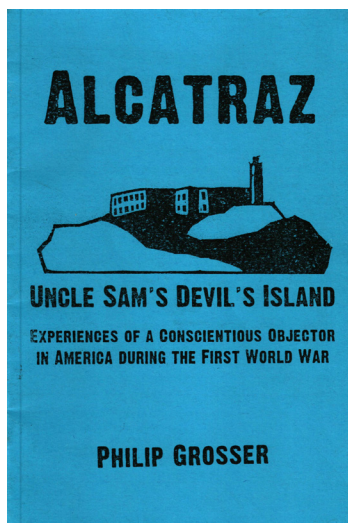
What are the consequences of resistance?

Award of \$150 Stipend

#### **Political Prisoners on Alcatraz**

Full Resource Packet

initiates our fall sessions of Dissonant Voices on Saturday, September 16, 2017.



Political Prisoners on Alcatraz engages you in a little known history of Alcatraz Island - a controversial site that has witnessed the ongoing struggles to define justice and freedom - its limits and applications - for individuals, cultures, and society. The first case study centers on two conscientious objectors jailed during World War I: Robert Simmons, African American religious objector, and Phillip Grosser, Jewish anarchist, who protested on political grounds. The second story introduces Robert Lipscomb, African American federal penitentiary inmate labeled "race agitator" and "known homo," who fought for civil rights within the prison walls during the segregated 1950s.

Join your colleagues for open-ended inquiry with primary sources and a visit to Alcatraz Island to consider how the military prison and federal penitentiary reflected the American justice system's interpretation of rights - who is entitled, who is denied, and why?

---

## Presenters for Political Prisoners on Alcatraz



**ELAINE ELINSON** is the coauthor of *Wherever There's a Fight: How Runaway Slaves, Suffragists, Immigrants, Strikers, and Poets Shaped Civil Liberties in California*, winner of the Gold Medal in the 2010 California Book Awards. Elinson served for two decades as the Communications Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California and editor of the ACLU News. She is a book reviewer for the San Francisco Chronicle, the Los Angeles Review of Books, and other publications. A former journalist with Pacific News Service in California and Southeast Asia, her book *Development Debacle: the World Bank in the Philippines* was banned by the Marcos regime. She currently researches social and political history for the National Park Service.

**BENNY BATOM** has been a Park Ranger on Alcatraz Island since 1992. His primary responsibility is to design and deliver relevant and engaging education programs for secondary students from throughout the Bay Area. He works with a team of other park educators to bring alive the untold histories of Alcatraz Island, as well as other sites in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Benny also presents interpretive programs for the public, including facilitated dialogues addressing contemporary issues such as solitary confinement and prison activism. He has a background in Art and Graphic design. "The past 25 years has been a great opportunity for me to be involved with the hundreds of schools that have participated in our programs over the years. I have learned so much seeing the island through their eyes."

**CAGES USED AT  
PRISON CALLED  
NEW 'TORTURE'**



---

## DISSONANT VOICES

is an inquiry-based series of workshops for secondary Social Studies teachers presented since 2009. The series is framed by the essential question – "What happens when we teach untaught histories?" We will be offering an array of workshops in the Golden Gate National Parks throughout 2017.

---

# Dissonant Voices

## Teaching Untaught Histories

Golden Gate  
National Recreation Area



### HOW TO APPLY

Applications for *Political Prisoners on Alcatraz* will be accepted through August 25th or until our workshop capacity is reached. A refundable application fee of \$25 must accompany your application. The fee is refundable upon completion of the workshop.

### REFUNDABLE FEE

Make your check out to: Golden Gate Parks Conservancy and mail with completed application form (below) to:

Lynn Fonfa, Education Specialist  
GGNRA, Fort Mason 201, San Francisco, CA 94123

For more information email: [Lynn\\_Fonfa@nps.gov](mailto:Lynn_Fonfa@nps.gov)

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

EMAIL

BEST PHONE TO REACH

SCHOOL

SUBJECT TAUGHT

WHY I WANT TO  
ATTEND:

